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HANDLE VIA
CONTROL SYSTEM

2439-63 25X1A
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23 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. Thomas Parrott
Mr. Thomas Hughes
Dr. Herbert Scoville
Dr. Brockway McMillan
Brig. General Edward Lansdale
Col. Ralph D. Steakley
Col. Leo P. Geary

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SUBJECT:

Contingency Plan for Operation

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Attached is a proposed contingency plan for Operation

Request any comments or recommended changes be submitted to the undersigned
by 26 April 1963.

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Special Assistant for Liaison
Office of Special Activities

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INTERDEPARTMENTAL CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR OPERATION [REDACTED]

I. OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE:

The operational objective of this mission is high altitude photographic reconnaissance of top priority targets of intelligence and military interest within North Vietnam and Laos. The instrument to be used to accomplish the mission is the U-2 aircraft, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

II. GENERAL OPERATIONAL COVER PLAN:

It must be assumed that a black-painted U-2 without military markings, [REDACTED] will be highly suspect to any observer. There is no cover story that can be contrived which will plausibly explain the operation and it is therefore concluded that in the absence of an incident, the best security policy to follow in response to any query is that the activity is a classified operation, without further comment.

The American unit commander on the base has been advised, through official channels, of the classified nature of this project and has been instructed to take whatever measures he considers necessary to insure maximum security of the activity and a minimum of speculation amongst

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If an incident or mishap should occur which results in 25X1C
any degree of exposure of the operation, or the vehicle, the response to
query - if necessary - will be simply "a routine training flight" without
further comment on the mission or explanation of the presence of the U-2
 Such a statement will be released only after coordination
with Headquarters.

III. POSSIBLE CONTINGENCIES:

A. Forced Landing in Burma

If, for any reason, the U-2 should be required to make an emergency
landing the pilot will be instructed to identify himself as an
American civilian and request that the American Embassy be advised of
his emergency landing. He will state that he was on a routine training
flight and had an equipment malfunction which resulted in
his inadvertent overflight and emergency landing . Any further 25X1
questions will be politely, but firmly, rejected. Every effort will be made
to destroy all flight maps and logs prior to landing.

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B. Loss of the Aircraft in Hostile Areas

For the purposes of this contingency plan, hostile areas include China, North Vietnam, and Communist-controlled areas of Laos. There is, in fact, no plausible cover story that could be sustained in the event of loss of the aircraft in hostile territory. Therefore, the pilot will be instructed that in the event of capture he will adhere to the provisions of Operations Policy Letter No. 6 which states in substance that he will give only the following information:

- (1) Name
- (2) Date and place of birth
- (3) Address in the United States
- (4) CIA affiliation (civilian)

He will be specifically instructed to protect the base of origin of the flight if possible. A dummy map will be prepared and carried in the aircraft showing the flight as originating at a point midway between the Philippines and the North Vietnam coast. (Suggesting carrier operation.)

IV. RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES

A. Hostile Protest without Incident

1. Cover Story

If it is necessary to comment on a protest of a successful overflight by a U. S. aircraft, such will be denied.

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2. Responsible Action Offices

Department of State (Mr. Hughes).

3. Coordinating Offices

Department of Air Force (Dr. McMillan).

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr. Scoville).

B. Loss of Aircraft in Hostile Territory

In the event of loss of the aircraft in hostile territory under circumstances which prompt news media queries, no official statement will be issued by any U. S. Government agency until such time as the Ad Hoc Cover Committee has reviewed all of the known factors of the situation and has determined a proper course of action. When and if the Committee determines that an official statement is necessary, such statement will be released only by the Department of State. A spokesman for this purpose will be designated by Mr. Thomas Hughes.

- V. The following named individuals are being furnished a copy of this document for purposes of internal coordination with cleared personnel within their respective departments.

Mr. Thomas Parrott - Executive Office of the President

Mr. Thomas Hughes - Department of State

Dr. Herbert Scoville - Central Intelligence Agency

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Dr. Brockway McMillan - Department of Air Force

Brig. Gen. Edward G. Lansdale - Department of Defense

Col. Ralph D. Steakley - Department of Defense (JCS)

Col. Leo P. Geary - AFIGO-S, Special Projects, USAF

- VI. It is recommended that each Agency maintain a list of all cleared personnel within their respective organizations who have been briefed on this Contingency Plan.
- VII. The Central Intelligence Agency will notify each Agency of any change to this plan and in return requests that any alterations be coordinated with CIA prior to implementation.

CIA CONTACT:

OFFICE TELEPHONE:

HOME TELEPHONE:

CIA CONTROL CENTER:

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